

I. Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims replaces without prejudice all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A cleaning formulation comprising the salt of a phosphorus-containing acid with urea or a weak base, said formulation comprising:
a particulate clay material and an aqueous carrier, the formulation having (i) a pH less than about 4.0 and (ii) at least a 90% reduction in viscosity at 25°C at a shear rate of up to about 0.10 s⁻¹.
2. (Cancelled).
3. (Original) The cleaning formulation defined in claim 1, wherein the particulate clay material comprises a bentonite clay.
4. (Original) The cleaning formulation defined in claim 1, wherein the particulate clay material comprises an alkali metal bentonite clay.
5. (Original) The cleaning formulation defined in claim 1, wherein the particulate clay material comprises a sodium bentonite clay.

6. (Original) The cleaning formulation defined in claim 1, wherein the aqueous carrier comprises water.

7. (Original) The cleaning formulation defined in claim 1, wherein the pH is in the range of from about 0.5 to about 4.0.

8. (Original) The cleaning formulation defined in claim 1, wherein the pH is in the range of from about 0.5 to about 3.0.

9. (Original) The cleaning formulation defined in claim 1, wherein the pH is in the range of from about 0.5 to about 1.5.

10. (Original) The cleaning formulation defined in claim 1, wherein the particulate clay material is present in an amount in the range of up to about 10 percent by weight.

11. (Original) The cleaning formulation defined in claim 1, wherein the particulate clay material is present in an amount in the range of from about 0.5 to about 10 percent by weight.

12. (Original) The cleaning formulation defined in claim 1, wherein the particulate clay material is present in an amount in the range of from about 0.5 to about 5.0 percent by weight.

13. (Original) The cleaning formulation defined in claim 1, wherein the particulate clay material is present in an amount in the range of from about 0.3 to about 3.0 percent by weight.

14. (Previously Presented) The cleaning formulation defined in claim 1, having at least a 90% reduction in viscosity at 25°C at a shear rate of up to about 0.05 s⁻¹.

15. (Previously Presented) The cleaning formulation defined in claim 1, having ~~characterized by~~ at least a 90% reduction in viscosity at 25°C at a shear rate of up to about 0.03 s⁻¹.

16. (Previously Presented) The cleaning formulation defined in claim 1, having at least a 95% reduction in viscosity at 25°C at a shear rate of up to about 0.10 s⁻¹.

17. (Previously Presented) The cleaning formulation defined in claim 1, having at least a 95% reduction in viscosity at 25°C at a shear rate of up to about 0.05 s⁻¹.

18. (Previously Presented) The cleaning formulation defined in claim 1, having at least a 95% reduction in viscosity at 25°C at a shear rate of up to about 0.03 s⁻¹.

19. (Currently Amended) The cleaning formulation defined in claim 1 2, wherein the cleaning agent comprises the salt of a phosphorous containing acid with a weak base
~~urea-phosphate salt is a reaction product of urea and a phosphorus-containing acid.~~

20. (Original) The cleaning formulation defined in claim 19, wherein the phosphorus-containing acid comprises phosphoric acid and derivatives thereof.

21. (Original) The cleaning formulation defined in claim 19, wherein the phosphorus-containing acid comprises phosphonic acid and derivatives thereof.

22. (Currently Amended) The cleaning formulation defined in claim 19, wherein the weak base is selected from the group consisting of alkylamines, dialkylamines, trialkylamines, alkyltetramines, polymers with amino or (alkyl or aryl) amino substituents groups, polymers with nitrogen-containing heterocyclic groups, acrylamide, polymers an copolymers of acrylamide, vinyl pyrrolidone, polyvinyl pyrrolidone, copolymers of vinyl pyrrolidone, methacrylamide, polymethacrylamide, copolymers of acrylamide, and ammonia ~~the ratio of urea to phosphorus-containing acid is in the range of from about 1:10 to 10:1.~~

23. (Currently Amended) The cleaning formulation defined in claim 1 2, wherein the salt is present in an amount in the range of from about 0.5 to about 60 percent by weight.

24. (Previously Presented) A method for removing fouling materials from a surface comprising the step of:

applying to the surface a formulation comprising a particulate clay material and an aqueous carrier, the formulation having (i) a pH less than about 4.0 and (ii) at least a 90% reduction in viscosity at 25°C at a shear rate of up to about 0.10 s^{-1} .

25. (Cancelled).

26. (Original) The method defined in claim 24, wherein the particulate clay material comprises a bentonite clay.

27. (Original) The method defined in claim 24, wherein the particulate clay material comprises an alkali metal bentonite clay.

28. (Original) The method defined in claim 24, wherein the particulate clay material comprises a sodium bentonite clay.

29. (Previously Presented) The method defined in claim 24, wherein the aqueous carrier comprises water.

30. (Original) The method defined in claim 24, wherein the pH is in the range of from about 0.5 to about 4.0.

31. (Original) The method defined in claim 24, wherein the pH is in the range of from about 0.5 to about 3.0.

32. (Original) The method defined in claim 24, wherein the pH is in the range of from about 0.5 to about 1.5.

33. (Original) The method defined in claim 24, wherein the particulate clay material is present in an amount in the range of up to about 10 percent by weight.

34. (Original) The method defined in claim 24, wherein the particulate clay material is present in an amount in the range of from about 0.5 to about 10 percent by weight.

35. (Original) The method defined in claim 24, wherein the particulate clay material is present in an amount in the range of from about 0.5 to about 5.0 percent by weight.

36. (Original) The method defined in claim 24, wherein the particulate clay material is present in an amount in the range of from about 0.3 to about 3.0 percent by weight.

37. (Previously Presented) The method defined in claim 24, the formulation characterized by at least a 90% reduction in viscosity at 25°C at a shear rate of up to about 0.05 s⁻¹.

38. (Previously Presented) The method defined in claim 24, the formulation having at least a 90% reduction in viscosity at 25°C at a shear rate of up to about 0.03 s⁻¹.

39. (Previously Presented) The method defined in claim 24, the formulation having at least a 95% reduction in viscosity at 25°C at a shear rate of up to about 0.10 s⁻¹.

40. (Previously Presented) The method defined in claim 24, the formulation having at least a 95% reduction in viscosity at 25°C at a shear rate of up to about 0.05 s⁻¹.

41. (Previously Presented) The method defined in claim 24, the formulation having at least a 95% reduction in viscosity at 25°C at a shear rate of up to about 0.03 s⁻¹.

42. (Currently Amended) The method defined in claim ~~24~~ 25, wherein the cleaning agent comprises the salt of a phosphorous containing acid with a weak base ~~urea-phosphate salt is a reaction product of urea and a phosphorus-containing acid.~~

43. (Original) The method defined in claim 42, wherein the phosphorus-containing acid comprises phosphoric acid and derivatives thereof.

44. (Original) The method defined in claim 42, wherein the phosphorus-containing acid comprises phosphonic acid and derivatives thereof.

45. (Currently Amended) The method defined in claim 42, wherein the weak base is selected from the group consisting of alkylamines, dialkylamines, trialkylamines, alkyltetramines, polymers with amino or (alkyl or aryl) amino substituents groups, polymers with nitrogen-containing heterocyclic groups, acrylamide, polymers and copolymers of acrylamide, vinyl pyrrolidone, polyvinyl pyrrolidone, copolymers of vinyl pyrrolidone, methacrylamide, polymethacrylamide, copolymers of acrylamide, and ammonia ~~the ratio of urea to phosphorus-containing acid is in the range of from about 1:10 to 10:1.~~

46. (Original) The method defined in claim 42, wherein the urea-phosphate salt is present in an amount in the range of from about 0.5 to about 60 percent by weight .